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REMARKS

Claims 1-21 were pending in the patent application. By this amendment, Applicants cancel Claims 8-9 and add Claims 22-25. Authorization is hereby given to charge Deposit Account 09-0447 for the addition of two additional dependent claims. Accordingly, Claims 1-7 and 10-25 are now pending.

The Examiner has objected to the drawings based on the fact that the specification mentions a file, not shown in the figures, and a destination, not shown in the figures. Applicants first note that neither the file nor the destination are claimed, and are not, therefore, subject to the requirement that all claim features be illustrated in the figures. Furthermore, an illustration of a file or of a destination is not necessary for a person skilled in the art to fully comprehend the meaning of the teachings. The relevant passage on page 7 refers to directing log records to "a configured destination such as a file... database...console screen...or other destination". One having skill in the art would not need an illustration of each possible destination to understand that log files are being directed to a prespecified destination in accordance with known technology. It is well established that known

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aspects of the relevant art, which are not the subject of the invention as claimed, need not be described or illustrated in detail in a patent application, lest the volume of nonessential teachings in each patent application become unnecessarily large and operate to obscure the invention. Accordingly, Applicants believe that the objection is inappropriate. Applicants have amended some of the language of the relevant paragraph, nonetheless, due to the fact that a typographical error was located therein. Applicants have additionally amended two other paragraphs to supply previously-unavailable information and to correct a grammatical error. No new matter is added by the amendments to the specification.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-5, 10, 12-16, and 20-21 under 35 USC 102 as anticipated by Kirk; and, has rejected Claims 6-9, 11, and 17-10 under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Kirk in view of Duggan. For the reasons set forth below, Applicants believe that the claims as amended are patentable over the cited art.

The present invention teaches a system, method, and program storage device for providing variable frequency logging of activities in a distributed computing system comprising a plurality of computing locations. Logging is

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started or altered in response to detection of message level
errors which indicate some malfunction at one of the
computing locations. When a trigger event, comprising a
message level error, is detected at one of the computing
locations, logging of system activities is commenced in at
least one of the computing locations until a stop event is
detected (Claims 1, 12, and 21, and those claims which
depend therefrom). Filtering of the logged system
activities can be undertaken to determine corrective action
(Claims 2-3, 13, and 24). In addition, mapping and tracing
can be implemented to identify which computing locations are
affected by the error, and logging can be commenced at the
identified locations (Claims 5-7, 16-19). The amount of
logging, or logging frequency, can be adjusted (Claims 4-5
and 20), the logging and tracing configuration for the
entire distributed computing system can be dynamically
adjusted (see: page 11, lines 1-2 and Claims 23-25), the
adjustments can be gradually implemented (see: page 17,
lines 3-5 and Claim 22), and, the adjustments can be based
on retrieved predefined temporary logging information
(Claims 10 and 11).

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The Kirk patent provides a global positioning system comprising a satellite or other apparatus for taking position readings and a receiving location for receiving readings transmitted from the reading apparatus. Under the Kirk system and method, logging of readings at the receiving location is terminated when an error condition is detected, specifically due to loss of signal contact between the apparatus taking the readings and the receiving/logging location.

In distinguishing the presently-claimed invention from the Kirk system, Applicants first note that the Kirk system is not comprised of a plurality of computing locations. Kirk has a reading apparatus and a receiving location, the latter of which may include computing components. Kirk does not have multiple computing locations. Applicants next note that a detected event under the Kirk teachings is a loss of communication between the reading apparatus and the receiving location. A detected event as claimed for the present invention is a message level error indicative of an error at one of the plurality of computing locations. Upon detection of an event (i.e., communication loss) under Kirk, the logging at the receiving location is terminated, and under alternative Kirk embodiments, previously recorded

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information is substituted into the log until communication
is reestablished. In contrast, the present invention starts
or adjusts ongoing logging in response to detection of a
trigger event. While Kirk can only substitute old readings
until communication is reestablished, the present invention
logs system activities and can further start filtering the
logged system activities to determine corrective action, and
can start tracing/mapping from the location of event
detection to identify other affected computing locations.
While Kirk effectively shuts down in response to a trigger
event, the present invention springs to action in response
to a trigger event.

Applicants respectfully assert that the Kirk patent
does not anticipate the invention as claimed. Kirk does not
teach a method or system having a plurality of computing
locations, does not teach means or steps to detect an event
trigger which comprises a message level error indicative of
an error condition at a computing location, does not teach
means or steps to activate logging in at least one computing
location in response to trigger event detection, and does
not teach means or steps to log system activities until
detection of a stop event. Rather, Kirk terminates logging
of received readings at its one receiving and logging

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location when is can no longer receive the readings to be
logged.

It is well established under U. S. Patent Law that, for
a reference to anticipate claim language under 35 USC 102,
that reference must teach each and every claim feature.
Since the Kirk patent does not teach the steps or means as
claimed, it cannot be maintained that Kirk anticipates the
invention as set forth in the independent claims, Claims 1,
12, or 21, or the claims which depend therefrom and add
further limitations thereto.

Applicants further note that the additionally-cited
Duggan patent does not provide the teachings which are
missing from the Kirk patent. In rejecting Claims 6-9, 11,
and 17-19, the Examiner acknowledges that the Kirk patent
does not teach or suggest identifying affected subsystems
and activating logging at affected subsystems. The Duggan
patent is directed to computer program testing and has
specifically been cited for it teachings regarding logging
session data during testing for later review (see: e.g., the
definitions of the Summary log option, the Session log
option, and the Event log option, as well as steps 48 and
124 of the process flow detailed in Fig. 11).

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Applicants first note that the Duggan patent neither
teaches nor suggests detecting an event trigger which
comprises a message level error at a distributed computing
location, activating logging for at least one computing
location in response to trigger event detection, or logging
system activities until detection of a stop event. As such,
the Duggan patent does not provide those teachings which are
missing from the Kirk patent. Moreover, the combination of
teachings of Kirk and Duggan do not obviate the invention as
claimed in the dependent claims, Claims 6-9, 11, and 17-19.
While Duggan does teach logging of session data and events
occurring during test sessions, Duggan does not teach or
suggest the logging of affected subsystems pursuant to
detection of a message level error indicative of an error at
a computing location of a distributed computing system
(Claims 6-7 and 17-19; Claims 8-9 having been canceled).
Rather, Duggan logs entries and events for individual
testing sessions in order to evaluate the test scripts which
have been run during the sessions. Duggan does not identify
subsystems which are affected by detected error events, and
does not commence logging at identified affected subsystems.
Rather, under Duggan, a test script generator (i.e., testing
programmer) preselects log options for individual test runs

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and logging is conducted accordingly. The Duggan logging is
not done dynamically in response to detection of events. It
is done based on preselected logging options. Moreover, it
is not done on dynamically identified subsystems, but is
done for each test session based on the preselected logging
options. Accordingly, Applicants do not believe that the
combination of Kirk and Duggan would obviate Claims 6-7 and
17-19 which recite identifying affected subsystems and
logging at affected subsystems.

While the Duggan system does use predefined logging
information (i.e., the preselected logging options), Duggan
does not access predefined temporary logging information for
use in logging which is commenced upon event detection, as
set forth in the pending claims (Claim 11, and not Claim 7
as contended by the Examiner on page 8). Accordingly,
Applicants believe that the combination of teachings of Kirk
and Duggan would not obviate Claim 11.

Finally, Applicants respectfully argue that the Duggan
patent does not teach mapping to determine the subsystem at
which a trigger event occurred. The cited Duggan passage
from Col. 8, lines 55-62 teach that Duggan can map to
determine locations at which testing sessions are conducted.
Duggan does not conduct a mapping step to determine where a

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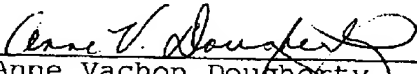
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detected trigger event occurred. Accordingly, Claims 17-19 are not obviated by the combined teachings of Kirk and Duggan.

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request entry of the amendments, reconsideration of the amended claim language in light of the remarks, withdrawal of the rejections, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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